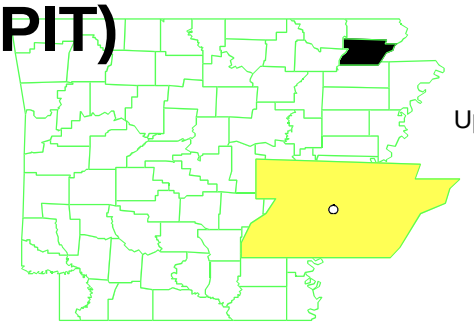
MONROE AUTO EQUIPMENT CO. (PARAGOULD PIT)

ARKANSAS

EPA ID# ARD980864110

EPA REGION 6
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 01
Greene County
Paragould

Updated: 06/22/00



Site Description

Location: ! The Monroe Auto Pit Site (Site) is located on Arkansas Highway 358 about three miles west of the southern city limits of Paragould in Greene County, Arkansas. Greene County is located in northeastern Arkansas.

Population: ! Approximately 21,000 (City of Paragould)

Setting: ! The Site occupies 7 acres of a former sand and gravel borrow pit. Four acres of the Site are surrounded by a 6-foot chain link fence with barbed wire and a locked access gate.
! The area is basically rural and lightly populated with private residences located immediately south, north, and northeast of the Site.
! The Site is located on the eastern flank of Crowleys Ridge, a north-south trending physiographic feature. The topography of the Site area consists of undulating hills. Elevations at the Site vary from 460 feet above mean sea level (MSL) in the northeastern corner of the Site to 413 feet above MSL in the southwestern corner of the Site.

Hydrology: ! The Site lies within an area designated as the Delta Ecoregion by the Arkansas Water Quality Standards. The nearest water body to the Site is the lower St. Francis River below its confluence with Straight Slough.
! Three distinct ground water zones are located in the sediments beneath the Site. The perched water zone is found in the alluvial gravel sediments of the Pliocene-aged Crowleys Ridge deposits. An upper unconfined aquifer zone and a lower confined aquifer zone are found in the Eocene-aged Wilcox Group sediments that underlie the Crowleys Ridge deposits.

Wastes and Volumes

! Principal pollutants include solvents and degreasing agents such as 1,1 Dichloroethane, 1,2 Dichloroethylene, Xylenes, and metals such as chromium and lead.

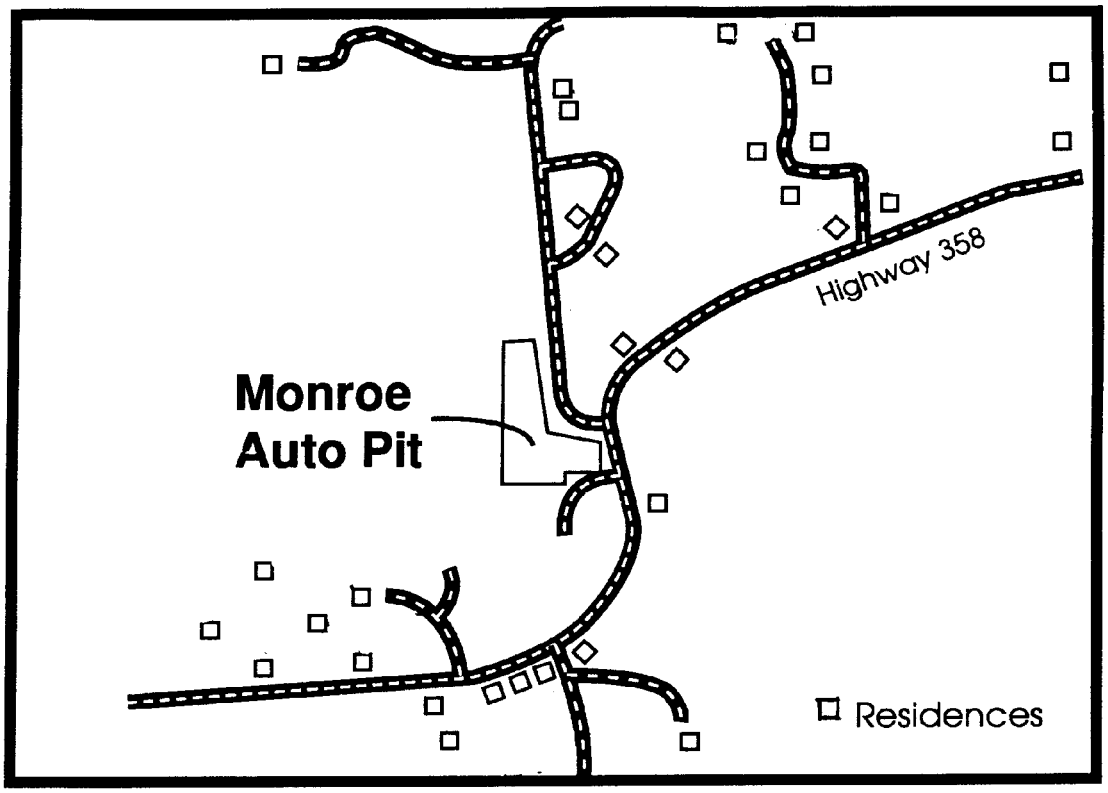
! The Site contains an estimated 3000 cubic yards of electroplating waste (sludge) and 15,000 tons of contaminated soil.

Site Assessment and Ranking

NPL LISTING HISTORY
Site HRS Score: 46.01
Proposed Date: 10/15/81
Final Date: 8/29/90
NPL Update: No. 10

! Received comments from Potentially Responsible Party (PRP), State, and various politicians, against Site listing.

Site Map and Diagram



The Remediation Process

Site History:

! During 1973 - 1978, Monroe Auto Equipment Company deposited approximately 15,000 cubic yards of alum and lime electroplating sludge at the Site in a sand and gravel pit. The State of Arkansas had issued a temporary permit for waste disposal.

! In July 1987, the EPA conducted a Site assessment inspection to determine the potential for public exposure to contaminants from the Site.

! In August 1990, the Site was formally added to the National Priorities List of Superfund Sites.

! In March 1991, the EPA issued a special notice letter to Monroe Auto Equipment Company to conduct

remedial investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS).

! On June 28, 1991, Monroe signed an Administrative Order on Consent to conduct the RI/FS under EPA oversight.

! On February 5, 1998, the Arkansas Department of Pollution Control & Ecology, (ADPC&E) signed a Consent Administrative Order directing Monroe to conduct the Remedial Design, Remedial Action, and operation & maintenance under ADPC&E oversight.

Health Considerations:

! Ingestion of contaminated soils, surface water, and ground water.

Other Environmental Risks:

! Contamination of nearby streams from potentially contaminated surface springs runoff.

Record of Decision

Signed: September 26, 1996

Soil and Sludge: (Alternative 4B)

! Cap the sludge disposal area in accordance with RCRA Subtitle C requirements.

! Install a French drain around the area of sludge deposits. The French drain would intercept perched ground water before it enters the contaminated area.

! Prohibit future development of the Site.

! Conduct environmental monitoring to ensure effectiveness of the remedial action.

! On April 19, the ADEQ issued an Amendment to the Proposed Plan outlining a new remedy that calls for the waste to be excavated and transported to a secure, licenced landfill.

Ground Water: (Alternative 2)

! Reduce contaminant concentrations through naturally attenuating processes such as biological/chemical/physical degradation, adsorption and dispersion.

! Place ground water use restrictions on the Site property.

! Conduct ground water monitoring of monitoring wells on the Site and near the Site and residential wells.

! Implement immediate and secondary contingency actions if necessary to protect human health and the environment.

Other Remedies Considered

Soil and Sludge:

1. No action
2. Access and deed restrictions
3. Soil and vegetative cover; access and deed restrictions
4A. Cap; slurry wall; access and deed restrictions
5. Solidification/stabilization; on-Site cap; access and deed restrictions
6. Excavation; vapor extraction; solidification/stabilization; on-Site cap; access and deed restrictions
7. Excavation; off-Site transport and disposal in Subtitle C or D landfill.

Ground Water:

1. No action
3. Ground water extraction; carbon adsorption; Reinjection

Community Involvement

! Community Involvement Plan: Developed 6/91.
! Open houses and workshops: NPL letter 10/89; NPL letter 8/90; Kickoff Fact Sheet, press clips 1/91; Superfund "101" Workshop 1/91; Citizens' RI scoping meeting 2/91; Speech to Environmental Group 4/91. Meeting with Realtors, RI update Fact Sheet 8/91. Letters to citizens 2/93; Letters to Realtors 5/94; Open House with PRPs 4/94; ROD Q&A Session 9/95.
! Original Proposed Plan Fact Sheet and Public Meeting: 8/95 and 9/95.
! Milestone Fact Sheets: 1/91, 8/91, 2/92, 8/95
! Citizens on Site mailing list: 41
! Constituency Interest: Site area residents concerned about drinking water well contamination, surface water contamination, and property values. State/PRPs opposed listing the Site on NPL.
! Site Repository: NE Arkansas Regional Library, Paragould, AR

Technical Assistance Grant

! Availability Notice: 1/91
! Letter of Intent: None

Contacts

! **Remedial Project Manager (EPA):** Earl Hendrick 214/665-8519, Mail Code 6SF-AP
! **State Contact:** Mike Arjmandi (ADPC&E)
! **Attorney (EPA):** Amy McGee, 214/665-8063, Mail Sta. 6SF-DL
! **State Coordinator (EPA):** Karen Bond, 214/665-6682, Mail Sta. 6SF-AP
! **R6 Ombudsman (EPA):** Arnie Ondarza, 214/665-6790, Mail Code SF
! **Prime Contractor:** Entact

Enforcement

! **PRPs Identified:** Monroe Auto Equipment Company
! Administrative Orders on Consent for the RI/FS, RD/RA, and Operation & Maintenance have been signed.

Present Status and Issues

! RI was completed in August 1993; FS was completed in April 1995. The Record of Decision (ROD) was signed on September 26, 1996.
! Under an agreement with the EPA, ADPC&E assumed lead responsibility for the Monroe Auto Site.
! Monroe provided ADPC&E and EPA copies of it draft the Remedial Design and Work Plan for comments; comments were provided to Monroe Auto.
! Monroe has agreed to completely removing the contaminants to a landfill.
! Consistent with the ROD, Monroe conducted a ground water sampling event in September 1998 to collect additional ground water data for use in preparing a list of parameters and in determining the proper sampling frequency for the long term monitoring program.

! On April 19, 2000, the ADEQ issued an Amendment to the Proposed Plan describing the new remedy. The public meeting was held on May 11; the comment period ended on May 22 with no adverse comments received.

! ADEQ should issue the ROD amendment in July specifying the new soil remedy.

Benefits

! The EPA conducted initial investigations and had determined that the Site does not pose an immediate threat to area residents. No further EPA actions are required while the State is overseeing the implementation by Monroe Auto of the remedy that is protective of human health and the ground water.